



Green Tips Competition



Do you have a great tip for 'greening' your life?

Let us know by either replying to the newsletter, posting on our Facebook wall (click [here](#)) or tweeting us @GreenHaslemere. We're offering a £25 voucher for the Lower Roundhurst Farm shop for the best response.

We'll also be taking suggestions on our stall at the Farmers' Market (Sunday July 3rd) – so come and say hello and share your best green tip!

Trees, trees, trees



We are very fortunate to live in a heavily wooded area and be surrounded by National Trust land. It may therefore surprise you to know that the UK is one of the least wooded areas in Europe. Just 12% of our land is woodland (and only 4% is native) compared to 44% in Europe

Woods are essential to life. They have a myriad of different benefits for both wildlife and people.

- They stabilise the soil, generate oxygen, store carbon, play host to a spectacular variety of wildlife, provide us with raw materials and shelter, inspire our imaginations and our creativity.
- The almost magical, mystical quality of woods makes them a great place for relaxation and recreation. A walk in the woods can give anyone a feeling of peace and tranquillity.

The Woodland Trust are aiming to double the area of native woodland trees in the UK and are offering free tree packs, expertise and advice to schools, communities and similar groups.

- **Do you know any areas that could be planted out with native woodland trees such as ash, hazel, birch, hornbeam, rowan or oak?**
- **Do you have ideas where we might plant a Jubilee Wood in or around Haslemere to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee?**
- **Would you like to be part of a local Haslemere tree planting project?**

We would welcome volunteers and any and all ideas; just get in touch with us at info@transitionhaslemere.org.

To learn more about woodlands and the use of wood why not visit the South Downs Wood fair taking place on July 9th and 10th at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park at Butser Hill (just off the A3 south of Petersfield). For more details please click [here](#).

Green Drinks



We will be back again at the bar of the Georgian Hotel on Thursday July 7th between 7.30 and 9.30 pm if you fancy a convivial chat and a drink. Come and discuss your ideas for more tree planting or a Jubilee Wood. All are most welcome.

Green driving saves fuel, money and carbon



With petrol prices showing no signs of falling back, it's a good time to develop more fuel efficient driving habits. This is especially true if you are about to set off on your family holidays and have a long drive to your destination. And saving fuel means saving carbon emissions, so it's good for the environment too.

Here are some tips for greener, more fuel efficient driving.

- **Watch your speed.** Driving at 50-60 mph is usually most efficient. Driving over 70mph rapidly increases your fuel consumption and your carbon emissions. It can cost up to 25% more in fuel to drive at 70mph compared with 50mph.
- **Try not to accelerate or brake sharply.** Harsh acceleration and braking can use up to 30% more fuel. They also add to the wear and tear on your car.
- **Switch off the engine** if you think you will stationary for more than two minutes – for example, while you are waiting at the Hindhead traffic lights.
- **Drive when the traffic is lightest** if you can. Avoid rush hours and the school run, as well as congested routes where the traffic is stop-start and your journey time is longer. Sometimes just a twenty minute delay can enable you to miss heavy traffic.
- But don't adjust your driving time if it means you'll be in a hurry. If you're stressed you will tend to drive more erratically and less economically.
- Try to **combine errands** so you only have to make one trip.
- Arrange to **car share** with work colleagues or for the school run.

- **Remove any unnecessary items** from your car. Extra weight means extra fuel consumption. If it is not inconvenient, only half full your tank for the same reason.
- **Remove your roof rack** unless you need it. Roof racks increase wind resistance, which can make a significant difference to your fuel consumption.
- On warm days, driving with the windows open increases the drag on your car and your fuel consumption. But so does using the air-conditioner. So which should you choose? The general rule is for slower driving – under 45mph or so – open the windows. On motorways and faster roads, use the air conditioner.
- Keep your **tyres at the right pressure** for your load and for the season. Under-inflated tyres increase your fuel consumption.
- **Have your car serviced** and checked regularly to make sure it is performing at its optimal level.

Finally, relax and enjoy the trip – you'll probably drive better and more efficiently.

Weird weather or what?



- Drought zones have been declared across much of England and Wales, yet Scotland has just registered its wettest-ever May.
- The warmest British spring in 100 years followed one of the coldest UK winters in 300 years.
- Last year, in Eastern Europe and Russia an extra 50,000 people died as temperatures stayed more than 6C above normal for many weeks.
- Last year two thirds of the European continent experienced its hottest summer in around 500 years.
- In Queensland, Australia, an area the size of Germany and France was flooded in December and January in what was called the country's "worst natural disaster".
- In China, a "once-in-a-100-years" drought in southern and central regions has this year dried up hundreds of reservoirs, rivers and water courses.
- North America's most deadly and destructive tornado season ever saw 600 "twisters" in April alone, Arizonans have been fighting some of the largest wildfires recorded, and the greatest flood in recorded US history is occurring along sections of the Missouri river.

Welcome to the climate rollercoaster, or what is being coined the "new normal" of weather.

The blame is being put on El Niño and La Niña, naturally occurring but poorly understood events that follow heating and cooling of the Pacific Ocean near the equator, bringing floods and droughts.

"I think that global 'weirding' is the best way to describe what we're seeing. We are used to certain conditions and there's a lot going on these days that is not what we're used to, that is outside our current frame of reference," says climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University.

New trends have been emerging for a decade or more, says the UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). "In Europe, a clear trend is emerging towards drier springs. This year's drought follows exceptionally dry years in 2007, 2009 and 2010," says a spokesman.

While no scientist will blame climate change for any specific weather event, many argue that these phenomena are textbook examples of the kind of impact that can be expected in a warming world. Natural events, such as La Niña and El Niño, are now being exacerbated by the background warming of the world, they say.

But there may be some respite coming from extreme weather because the El Niño/La Niña episodes are now fading fast, according to the WMO. "The weather pattern, blamed for extremely heavy downpours in Australia, Southeast Asia and South America over late 2010 and early 2011, is unlikely to redevelop in the middle of 2011," it advises. "Looking ahead beyond mid-year 2011, there are currently no clear indications for enhanced risk of El Niño or La Niña in the second half of the year".

The WMO concludes, tentatively, that global weather will now return to something approaching normal. The trouble is, no one is too sure what normal is any more.

Summarised from John Vidal, Guardian, June 13th 2011. See [here](#) for full article.

Dates for your diary

- June 27th Steering Group Meeting (Town Hall 7.30 pm)
- July 3rd Farmers' Market
- July 7th Green Drinks at the Georgian Hotel
- July 9th –10th South Downs Wood Fair (Click [here](#) for details)

For more details on any of these dates please see the website www.transitionhaslemere.org or email transitiontown@haslemere.com

For comments on this newsletter please email newsletter@transitionhaslemere.org